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REMARKS:**Status**

Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 10, 12, 16, 21 and 22 are pending. Claims 7, 11, 13, 14, and 17 to 19 have been withdrawn. In this response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended, claims 15 and 20 have been cancelled, and claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claims 1 and 21 are the independent ones of the pending claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 10, 12, 15, 16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,149,229 (Dillion). Applicant has amended claim 1 to read as follows:

1. A clip, comprising:
 - two plates;
 - a spacer that connects the plates and that holds the plates apart by a gap;
 - at least one part of a hook-and-loop fastener attached to at least one of the plates opposite the other of the plates; and
 - a rubberized coating on the other of the plates without the hook-and-loop type fastener.

The applied Dillion reference is not seen by Applicant to disclose or even to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, at least with respect to "a rubberized coating on the other of the plates without the hook-and-loop type fastener." This rubberized coating is particularly useful when the J-clip of the invention is used with an ice cover for a hockey arena. A metal J-clip without the

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rubberized coating can transmit heat to the ice, resulting in melting. This melting can cause problems, for example saturation or movement of the ice cover and overlying sheet or tarp. The rubberized coating helps to alleviate such issues.

In this regard, Applicant notes that the Office Action did not even allege that Dillion taught the claimed rubberized coating, which was recited by original claim 15.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 102 rejection. Allowance also is respectfully requested of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

New Claims

Claim 21 recites a method of using one or more clips. The claim specifically limits the method to using clips with the elements recited by claim 1. At least because these clips include the rubberized coating discussed above, claim 21 is believed to be allowable over the applied art.

Claim 22 recites application of the method of claim 21 to an ice cover in a hockey arena. As discussed above, a J-clip with a rubberized coating is particularly suited to this application.

Closing

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 205-3241.

Respectfully submitted,



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